important works elsewhere. The Chief Engineer's reply was received in December last. I have not taken it up on account of the prohibitive cost involved. I shall, however, see the road, if it is anywhere on my way to north Travancore and then decide whether the work should be executed even at a prohibitive cost, and, if so, how we can meet the expenditure.

Then in regard to the strengthening of the bunds of the Kallada river, I have seen the locality. It struck me, as it has struck you, that the most urgent thing to do would be to bore a tunnel first through the hill, thereby letting the flood water out into the Ashtamudi lake. I also saw the bund of the Chittumala *chira*. You want this bund and the surplus weir raised by two or three feet. Personally, I think it would not be of much use as the catchment area of the *chira* is small and the water that it would hold cannot be anything like the water required for the 900 acres that have to be irrigated, and I suggested the construction of wells in the irrigable area as a supplementary source of irrigation, but my suggestion has not been received kindly. The question of the raising of the bund has also been referred for professional opinion.

As regards the police outpost at Kundara, the Commissioner of Police is not for converting it into a charging station. As regards the transfer of the outpost to the Railway Station, there is apparently no objection to it. I shall ask the Commissioner about it and see if the transfer cannot be effected.

The next item you refer to is the provision of latrine and compound walls to the local Malayalam Girls' School and the English School. I shall ask the Director of Public Instruction to look into these matters and remedy the defects, especially in the matter of latrine.

In regard to the establishment of an industrial school and an agricultural school at Quilon, I consider both a necessity, but we are handicapped by the want of trained men. We have sent seven men to Nagapur and Poona for training in agriculture and it will take two or three years for them to return. I think Quilon should be one of the places where an agricultural school should be started. I shall also remember what you said in regard to the carpentry school. The school will be open not only to carpenters, but also to members of other communities. Preference will, however, be given to boys belonging to the artisan community.

Next, coming to the Chittumala-Sastamkotta road, I have seen this road. This road is not in a satisfactory condition and I have written to the Chief Engineer about it. I remember that a culvert on it was very weak and I said that it should be put in good order.

As regards the opening of an Anchal office, I shall ask the Anchal Superintendent to open an office at the place mentioned by you, if there is any need for it.

67. Certain disabilities of the inhabitants of the Kunnattur Taluk.

Mr. K. Aiyappan Pillai (Member, Kunnattur Taluk) began with an expression of disapproval of the proposed transfer of the Magistrate's Court. He submitted that the grievances of the people of west Kallada were represented at several sessions of the Assembly and that those grievances still remained unredressed. The west Kallada *pakuthi* was 3,000 acres in extent and contained about 2,000 houses and 10,000 inhabitants. It was surrounded on the southern and eastern sides by the Kallada river and river bund, and on the northern side by the Sasthamkotta lake and the lake bund. During rainy seasons the water in the surrounding lakes and river rose to a height of ten or twelve feet above the level of the ground, and the misery resulting from frequent floods, when the whole land was ten feet below water, could be more easily imagined than described. During dry months, the people of the locality suffered from lack of drinking water because, the place being low, salt water entered into the surrounding river and thence into the area through the breached bunds and culverts. Nor was it possible to take fresh water from the Sastamkotta lake, since some of the culverts were in a damaged condition. The Member, therefore, prayed that both the river bunds and the lake bunds should be strengthened and that the culverts in west

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Kallada should be renewed. Though something was done in the matter, it did not result in any appreciable good to the people. The Member learnt that the work of repairing the culverts which had been given on contract was cancelled for some unknown reason in November 1914. The late Mr. Mahadeva Aiyar, when he was Dewan Peishkar, Quilon, had reported to Government in 1092 the necessity of reserving water in the Sasthamkotta lake during the monsoons so as to take it during the dry season for the use of the people of west Kallada. The Member also learnt that, in the year 1918, the Chief Engineer had submitted to Government an estimate for Rs. 1,38,000 for the necessary works in the east and west Kallada *pakuthies*. In November 1921 the Government passed orders to the effect that the Chief Engineer should be asked to give his opinion as to whether the restoration of the Kallada bund might not be treated as a major irrigation work and a cess imposed on the lands benefited by the work. The Member did not know what reply the Chief Engineer gave in the matter. The Dewan had observed in his opening speech that Government were alive to the importance of the part that drainage played in the agricultural economy of the State, that he recently inspected the east Kallada *pakuthi* where this question was one of pressing prominence, and that he proposed to visit the west Kallada *pakuthi* also where conditions were reported to be similar. The Member feared that the Dewan had not understood the nature of the work required in west Kallada, and said that the works in west Kallada did not require either the advice of an expert in irrigation or large sums of money to be spent on them. All that the people of west Kallada required was only the repair and restoration of damaged bunds and culverts. The Member specially drew attention to the bund that gave way last year for a length of half a mile and the culvert in it and remarked that, unless the necessary repairs were carried out, the next rain would cause immense loss of life and property. Government would not have to spend more than 5 years' revenue of the *pakuthi* or a portion of the yearly revenue of the taluk to repair the bunds and restore the culverts. Government had not spent money on any costly institutions there, the only public institutions being a school and an Anchal office. The Member, therefore, prayed that the above-mentioned works which were essential to the very existence of the people might be taken up and carried out before the next monsoon set in.

Dewan's reply.—The question of transfer of the Magistrate's Court has not yet been decided. Most of your grievances relate to western Kallada. You want immediate action to be taken. I cannot go there at once. I have said in my address that the matter will receive my early attention.

Member.—It will be of no use to us if Government do not take immediate action. The execution of the work may not take more than a month.

Dewan.—I shall inspect the place as soon as possible. I shall also bring the Chief Engineer with me so that we may decide upon something at the spot without further delay. When I said that an engineering officer should be given training in drainage problems, I did not mean that it was only when this expert became available that the works at western Kallada should be taken up. If, as you say, the works to be executed there are of a minor character, such as closing breaches, which will not involve any heavy outlay, we can do it independently of the expert engineer.

68. Some urgent needs of the northern pakuthies of the Karunagapalli taluk in the matter of communications, irrigation and drainage with suggestions for meeting them.

Mr. G. Raman Menon M. A., B. L. (Member, Karunagapalli Taluk) said that the Karunagapalli taluk and, more especially the northern *pakuthies* of it, were very deficient in the matter of roads, bridges and facilities for drainage and irrigation, and that, to make up for past neglect, a fair allotment of money should be annually sanctioned for public works in the northern *pakuthies* of the taluk.

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